Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00350 232231Z ACTION EUR-12

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PASS VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE (BURNS)

FOR USIA IEU, IOP/G

EO 11652 NA TAGS OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - MONDALE VISIT JANUARY 1978

1. OTTAWA CITIZEN JANUARY 21 RAN MONDALE EDITORIAL "MAJOR ISSUES STILL UNRESOLVED" WHICH EMPHASIZED VIEW THAT MONDALE VISIT PRODUCED PLEASANT WORDS, BUT RESOLVED LITTLE IN TERMS OF "THE ISSUES THAT STILL CREATE FRICTION BETWEEN THIS COUNTRY AND THE U.S.". EDITORIAL NOTED THAT MONDALE DID NOT VISIT TO NEGOTIATE, AND THAT RESULTS OF HIS DISCUSSION WERE TENTATIVE. ARTICLE IN BUSINESS SECTION TITLED "MONDALE PROMOTES GAS SWAP" DESCRIBED THE PROPOSED ECONOMIC TRADE-OFFS DISCUSSED BY MONDALE WITH CANADIAN OFFICIALS. THESE INCLUDED THE POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF ALBERTA NATURAL GAS NOW FOR ALASKAN GAS WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. CITIZEN ALSO CARRIED CP NEWS SERVICE ARTICLE TITLED "U.S. TARIFF CUTS AIMED AT HELPING CANADA" WHICH FOCUSSED ON POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF U.S. TARIFFS ON CANADIAN BEEF AND PETRO-CHEMICAL PRODUCTS. UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00350 232231Z

2. OTTAWA JOURNAL JANUARY 21 CARRIED EDITORIAL "PIPELINE PRESSURE" WHICH DISCUSSED THE IMPLICATIONS THE MONDALE DISCUSSIONS MAY HAVE ON THE LARGER PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION ISSUE, BECAUSE SALE OF ALBERTA NATURAL GAS WOULD PROVIDE FINANCING FOR ENERGY EXPLORATION IN WESTERN CANADA AND FOR THE EARLY STAGES OF THE PIPELINE ITSELF. THE

EDITORIAL OBSERVED THAT "IT IS IRONIC, HOWEVER, THAT COINCIDENT WITH MR MONDALE'S VISIT TO CANADA WERE REPORTS THAT THE CANADIAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE PIPELINE ARE GROWING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. DELAYS, BOTH PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT, IN CRITICAL DECISIONS REGARDING GAS PRICING AND SALES". THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED "THE REAL TEST OF SUCCESS FOR MR MONDALE'S CANADIAN VISIT WILL BE IN THE FOLLOW-UP DECISIONS THAT ARE, OR AREN'T, MADE AND WHETHER THEY ARE MADE OUICKLY ENOUGH TO KEEP THE PIPE-LINE PROJECT MOVING FORWARD. THE ONUS FOR EFFICIENT DECISION-MAKING IS SHARED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. BUT THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT MIGHT WELL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT MEANS OF PRODDING THE PIPELINE INTO BEING". THE OTTAWA JOURNAL ALSO CARRIED A COMMENTARTY BY W.A. WILSON "GOOD PROSPECTS FOR TRADE WITH U.S.", WHICH ANALYZED THE DEEPER TARIFF ISSUES UNDERLYING THE MONDALE PROPOSALS, AND DISCUSSED THE AREAS OF TARIFF POLICY IN WHICH CANADIAN OFFICIALS MUST NOW MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS. AS WILSON OBSERVED "THE CANADIAN PROBLEM NOW IS TO SEEK ENHANCED TRADING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRONG. GROWING AND WELL-FINANCED INDUSTRIES WITHOUT DAMAGING ITS NEGOTIATING POSITION BY EXCESSIVE CONCERN TO PROTECT WEAKER ONES THAT HAVE LITTLE FUTURE IN WORLD TRADE".

3. OTTAWA JOURNAL EDITORIAL JANUARY 23 "AN EXCESS OF POLITENESS" SUGGESTED THAT WARM PRAISE BY MONDALE FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 00350 232231Z

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU WAS POLITICAL EYEWASH. "MR MONDALE WAS LAUDING THE MAN WHO HAS PRESIDED OVER A STEADY DECLINE IN HIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND SPIRITUAL STATE. WHAT WOULD A CANADIAN LEADER HAVE TO DO TO MERIT MERELY PERFUNCTORY AND CONVENTIONAL COMPLIMENTS?" JOURNAL ALSO CARRIED ARTICLE BY MARJORIE NICHOLS FROM WASHINGTON TITLED "U.S. TAX PACKAGE MAY DAMAGE OUR ECONOMY". ARTICLE FOCUSSED ON NEW CARTER TAX PROPOSALS AND ON SPECIFIC TAX FACTORS WITH EFFECT ON CANADA, SUCH AS U.S. CORPORATE TAXES ON FOREIGN SUBSIDIARIES, AND BRIEF MENTION OF PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE U.S. CONVENTION TAX LAW. VIEWS OF UNNAMED CANADIAN OFFICIALS ARE QUOTED AS SOURCES, AND THEY VOICE CONCERN THAT THE OVERALL IMPACT MAY BE NEGATIVE ON CANADA'S ECONOMY.

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| | Sheryl P. Walter | Declassified/Released | US Department of State | EO Systematic Review | 20 Mar 2014 |
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